

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FOR IO/EX/IR - J. HURT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, APER, UNRWA (DEUTSCH, RONALD), (HOPKINS, R.L.)

SUBJECT: UNRWA CANDIDACIES OF DEUTSCH AND HOPKINS

REF: HURT/GARLAND LETTER NOV. 10, 1976

1. MISSION HAS SPOKEN ON PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL BASIS WITH MCELHINEY AND HOPKINS HIMSELF RE POSSIBLE HOPKINS REPLACEMENT RATHORE. MCELHINEY STATED THAT HOPKINS FULLY QUALIFIED FOR RATHORE POSITION AND HAD HIS COMPLETE SUPPORT. MCELHINEY OBSERVED THAT CG RENNIE WAS CONCERNED OVER HIGH VISIBILITY OF MACITS AT SENIOR LEVEL AND HE BELIEVED THAT RENNIE WOULD HAVE SOME PREOCCUPATION IN THAT SENSE IN CONSIDERING HOPKINS. NONETHELESS, HE BELIEVED HOPKINS TO BE ONLY CANDIDATE WHO STOOD FIRM PROSPECT OF BEING APPOINTED TO RATHORE POST AND ESTIMATED HIS CHANCES OF GETTING THE POST AT 75 PERCENT. MCELHINEY ADVISED AGAINST RPT AGAINST ANY USG APPROACH TO UNRWA AT THIS TIME. IN HIS OPINION, APPROACH WOULD NOT SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE HOPKINS' ALREADY VERY STRONG POSITION, AND COULD REDOUND TO HIS DISFAVOR.

2. HOPKINS IS HIMSELF AWARE OF MCELHINEY'S SUPPORT FOR HIM AS OUTLINED ABOVE, IS GRATEFUL FOR USG INTEREST, BUT DIFFIDENT ABOUT APPROACH TO RENNIE. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT DEPT. FOLLOW MCELHINEY'S

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JUDGMENT AND DEFER APPROACH TO RENNIE.

3. RE DEUTSCH CASE, HOPKINS BELIEVES THAT DEUTSCH HAS EXCELLENT BACKGROUND AND INFORMED US THAT THIS VIEW WAS SHARED BY HEAD OF UNRWA PUBLIC INFORMATION, DE FRAETS. HOPKINS BELIEVED THAT DEUTSCH RANKED HIGH AMONG THE 15 OR SO CANDIDATES FOR PRESS OFFICER VACANCY, BUT NOTED THAT DE FRAETS HAD TAKEN FULL FILE OF CANDIDATES WITH HIM TO AMMAN AND HAD NOT YET COMPLETED HIS EVALUATION OF CANDIDATES (DEPT. MAY WISH CONSIDER CONTACTING DE FRAETS AT AMMAN IN SUPPORT OF DEUTSCH, NOTHING, HOWEVER, THAT SAME HANDS-OFF ATTITUDE AS IN CASE OF HOPKINS MIGHT BE PREFERABLE. HOPKINS PROMISED KEEP US INFORMED. STIBRAVY

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